

*Childs
Appropriations
(R)*

SECRET

OLC 74-1177

29 May 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: DCI Briefing of the Special Group of the House
Appropriations Committee--28 May 1974

1. On 28 May 1974, the Director met with the Special Group of the House Appropriations Committee for a briefing on the Agency and intelligence community budgets. The meeting lasted from 1010 hours until 1200 hours and from 1410 hours until 1605 hours. A technical sweep of the room, H 140 in the Capitol, was conducted and the room was kept under technical monitoring throughout. Discussions included [redacted] material. A transcript was taken and is on file in the Office of Legislative Counsel.

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2. Present from the Special Group were:

George H. Mahon (D., Texas), Chairman
Jamie L. Whitten (D., Miss.)
Robert L. F. Sikes (D., Fla.)
William E. Minshall (R., Ohio)

3. Present from the Subcommittee staff was:

Ralph Preston

4. Accompanying the Director were:

John D. Iams, Comptroller
[redacted] AD/DCI/IC
[redacted] Congressional Support Officer
[redacted] Acting Legislative Counsel

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5. At the outset the Chairman made it clear he was confident that nothing would be withheld from the Subcommittee and had words of praise for Mr. Colby and the professionals who back him up. He maintained that while some say CIA is unfettered the Subcommittee has looked into all the nitty gritty and he also referred to intelligence briefings this year. He concluded that:

- a. the objective of the Subcommittee was to determine if Mr. Colby is getting the job done under the 1971 letter and observed "I doubt it";
- b. the transcript is not for release but is for use in the Subcommittee's deliberations; and
- c. this session was an exercise of the Subcommittee's responsibility to review the budget.

Mr. Colby's reply reinforced the Chairman's statement that there is complete congressional control over the Agency, we have no secrets from the Subcommittee, and that the assertions that we are uncontrolled surely can be contested. (See transcript and handwritten notes for details of discussion on and off the record.)

6. At the start of the session, Mr. Sikes moved to have an intelligence briefing by Mr. Colby, particularly on the situation in the Middle East,

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7. Mr. Colby used the current intelligence briefing to introduce [redacted] briefing program and offered to provide the same to the Subcommittee, which seemed to be particularly appealing to Mr. Sikes. Following the session, Mr. Preston said he would like to try a monthly briefing, explaining that DIA briefs the staff of the Defense Subcommittee once a week. I encouraged Preston to provide topics for [redacted] which would be of particular interest to the members and he said he would talk with the Chairman and let us know the outcome.

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8. The briefing appeared to go extremely well, with Mr. Colby speaking extemporaneously from the charts with a number of interruptions for questions. The members were doubtful that any one man could be on top of the problems involving the complex intelligence community but Mr. Colby kept hammering back with the key intelligence questions and his intention to evaluate programs accordingly.

9. Mr. Whitten, who has taken a jaundiced view of intelligence in the past, repeatedly came back to the point that he would rather hear from [redacted]

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10. In connection with a need to consolidate training programs, Mr. Colby made a pitch for the consolidation of training at [redacted] but it was a general, not detailed, explanation.

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11. Follow up action:

[redacted]

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